



Governor's Subcabinet on International Affairs

Annual Report to the Governor

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Secretary of State

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Table of Contents

2019 Report Highlights	3
Background	4
Agency Reports.....	5
Office of Secretary of State	5
Maryland Department of Commerce.....	6
Maryland Department of Transportation	7
Maryland Higher Education Commission.....	8
Maryland State Department of Education.....	9
Maryland Department of Health.....	10
Maryland Department of Agriculture.....	10
Maryland Department of Environment.....	11
Maryland Military Department	11
Maryland Department of Planning	14
Governor's Office of Community Initiatives	14
Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs	15

2019 Report Highlights

The major international highlights for the State of Maryland in the year of 2019 were:

The Maryland Department of Commerce led 57 Maryland companies to 7 international trade shows in the UAE, Australia, Mexico, UK, Japan, Germany and Colombia. Organized, in concert with the National Governors Association, a Governor-led trade mission to Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne, Australia, focused around infrastructure, cyber-security and life sciences. In conjunction with the Maryland-Kanagawa Sister State Committee Governor Hogan and Governor Kuroiwa signed a Health and Life Sciences MOU.

The Office of the Secretary of State in partnership with Sister States of Maryland, Inc. worked on the resigning of the Maryland-Estonia Sister State Agreement, signed by Governor Hogan and Estonian Ambassador Vseviov. The international division also arranged a very successful visit for 23 EU Ambassadors' to Maryland on Dec. 3 with the help of the Governor's Office and many State agencies.

The Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) Deputy Secretary attended the second Annual International Manufacturing Convention in Hefei, Anhui Province, Maryland's Sister State in China, from Sept. 19 -21, 2019 and made presentations on Maryland's Connected and Automated Vehicle Initiative to 300 to 400 representatives from public and private organizations from around the world during the Intelligent Connected Vehicles Forum. The Governor's Ethnic Commissions continued to play a very strong role in furtherance of Governor's Office of Community Initiatives' mission. Asian Pacific American Commissioner Bob Zhang participated greatly to the success of the MDOT trade mission to Anhui Province, China, both facilitating visits and advising on Chinese protocols to ensure the mission stayed on the most successful course.

Several international-related Maryland Port Administration (MPA) statistics regarding international trade: The Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore (POB) ranks number 1 in the nation for automobiles, roll-on/roll-off equipment and imported sugar; ranked number 2 for exported coal. Commerce with the world by way of the Port of Baltimore continued to grow.

In June 2019, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) conducted a trade mission to France to connect Maryland Thoroughbred and Standardbred breeders with their French counterparts. The goal was to promote equine trade, exchanges and tourism. The group also met with leaders of the Maryland-Hauts-de-France Sister State Committee to identify potential areas of collaboration.

MDA hosted three buyers of alcoholic beverages from Europe in Nov. 2019. The buyers from the Czech Republic, France and Sweden met with and toured eight breweries and distilleries. Preliminary surveys indicate that all three buyers were interested in following up with at least one of the Maryland companies.

Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) Secretary, Jim Fielder, and Commission Chair, Anwer Hasan, welcomed Pakistan Higher Education Chairman Dr. Tariq Banuri to Baltimore. The three met with other MHEC directors to discuss efforts to restructure higher education in Pakistan, using Maryland as a model.

In 2019 the Maryland State Department of Education signed MOUs the Republic of China (Taiwan) and Italy. The agreements promote knowledge and appreciation of the cultures of China, Italy and Maryland, promote expanded language programs, provide professional growth opportunities for teachers, and encourage the hiring of teachers as well as virtual and face-to-face exchanges of teachers and students.

In 2019, the Maryland National Guard (MDNG – comprised of the Maryland Army (MDARNG) and Air (MDANG) National Guard) conducted 94 State Partnership Program (SPP) events, 50 with Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and 44 with Estonia.

The Maryland Department of Health in conjunction with its partners, worked to track international origins of opioid/fentanyl.

The Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs produces a small business resource magazine in partnership with The Daily Record. The 2019 edition includes an article regarding international business, which features Signe Pringle, assistant secretary for business and industry sector development at the Maryland Department of Commerce.

The Maryland Department of Planning is highly focused on the 2020 census. Secretary McCord gave a presentation at the Sister States of Maryland, Inc. board meeting on Oct. 30. The Governor's Office of Community Initiatives has also worked to integrate support from federal agencies to solicit responses from the African diaspora population.

Background

Purpose of Subcabinet:

In accordance to the Executive Order 01.01.2005.24 (May 11, 2005), the Governor's Subcabinet on International Affairs is tasked to convene on a quarterly basis to coordinate and collaborate on the international activities of the State. In addition, the Subcabinet is tasked to develop, evaluate and coordinate a cohesive international strategy in order to enhance the state's competitiveness and stature in the global marketplace and international arena. In 2019, the Subcabinet convened three times: Feb. 7, June 14 and Oct. 30.

Membership of Subcabinet:

Chaired by the Secretary of State John C. Wobensmith, members of the Subcabinet are:

1. Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford
2. Kelly Schulz, Secretary of the Department of Commerce
3. Joseph Bartenfelder, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture
4. Greg Slater, Secretary of the Department of Transportation
5. Dr. James D. Fielder, Jr., Secretary of the Maryland Higher Education Commission
6. Ben Grumbles, Secretary of the Department of the Environment

The following agencies have participated in the Subcabinet meetings either at the invitation of Secretary Wobensmith or at the department's request:

1. Governor's Office of Community Initiatives
2. Maryland Department of Health
3. Maryland Insurance Administration
4. Maryland Military Department
5. Maryland State Department of Education
6. Maryland Department of Human Services
7. Governor's Office of Small, Minority, & Women Business Affairs
8. Maryland Department of Planning
9. World Trade Center Institute

Agency Reports

Office of Secretary of State

Key Accomplishments:

- Maryland re-established the Sister State Partnership with Estonia. With change in Estonia's local government structure dissolving the government of Maryland's Sister State, Harju County, the Embassy and State of Maryland wanted to ensure the continuance of the long-standing and very successful partnership. The Governor and Ambassador signed an MOU that dedicates both parties to on-going work in sectors such as security, economic development, cyber, K-12 and higher education as well as arts and culture.
- Secretary Wobensmith led a delegation of the Maryland Horse Industry Board (MHIB) to China. Objectives of the mission were: 1. Strategic promotion of Maryland's horse industry by meeting with top horse industry representatives attending China's first Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) 3-star event; 2. Identify opportunities to export Maryland horse related products, services and education to Dangshan County; and 3. Continue Maryland's strong diplomatic ties with Anhui Province, and China as a whole, via the historic Sister State partnership. The Office of the Secretary of State, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and the MHIB are expecting a visit from members of the Anhui Department of Agriculture in mid-January –a follow up to the MHIB mission to China in Oct. This was a direct follow-up from Anhui Promotion week, organized by the Maryland-Anhui Sister State Committee, which took place in Maryland in 2018.
- Deputy Secretary Luis Borunda led a delegation of the Maryland – Piura, Peru Sister State Committee to Peru in Oct. The itinerary included meetings in Lima with U.S. Embassy staff including the Deputy Chief of Mission. In Piura, the delegation met with Governor Garcia, a strong supporter of the partnership, as well as leadership of the local Rotary International. Higher education partnerships are already underway with Towson University. Hughes, a Maryland IT/satellite company, is spearheading projects in Piura.
- In conjunction with the Department of Commerce, Governor Hogan and Governor Kuroiwa of Kanagawa Prefecture, Maryland's Sister State in Japan, signed an MOU in the sector of Health and Life Sciences. The MOU expresses the interest of both parties to continue collaborating on life sciences projects, a sector in which both regions excel.
- With the help of the Lt. Governor the State House hosted an exhibit from St. Omer France called "The Carroll Odyssey" for two weeks in July 2019. Starting in Sept. 2019 The Charles Carroll of Annapolis House has hosted the exhibit. The house will continue to house it through Jan. 2020.
- The Annual Sister States Legislative Reception was extremely successful with attendance of 300 + people: the Ambassador of Estonia, Deputy Chief of Mission from Turkey, Embassy officials from Israel, Mexico and Japan, countless legislators and constituents. First Lady Yumi Hogan and Lt. Governor Rutherford attended.
- On Dec. 3, 23 E.U. Ambassador had a wildly successful visit to Maryland- the first state outreach program of this kind for the EU Mission. Governor Hogan hosted the Ambassadors at Government House for a discussion on Maryland-EU relations and the Governors policy, strategies and successes in Maryland. The program spurred from Governor Hogan's meeting with German Ambassador, Emily Haber, and was initiated by E.U. Ambassador Stavros Lamrinidis

and the EU mission. The Ambassadors attended breakout sessions all over Maryland: University of Maryland - Baltimore, Maryland Institute for Marine Environmental Technology, U.S. Naval Academy, KIPP Charter School, TradePoint Atlantic and University of Maryland Baltimore County with media coverage. The Ambassadors also visited Fort McHenry and ended the evening with a reception at the American Visionary Arts Museum. Many Maryland State Agency Secretaries and employees attended the events during the day.

- On Nov. 9 Estonia's Prime Minister Jüri Ratas and Ambassador Jonatan Vsevirov visited Annapolis. The delegation accompanied by Secretary of State Wobensmith visited with the U.S. Naval Academy Superintendent Admiral Buck and laid a wreath at Senator McCain's grave.
- In 2019, Secretary Wobensmith met with Ambassadors and Ministers from the following Embassies; China, Korea, Germany, Mexico, Argentina, Peru, Greece, Serbia, Singapore, UAE, Costa Rica, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Panama.

List top 3 most important regions/countries dealt with in 2019

- Asia, Estonia and Peru

Major international goals, projects or events upcoming for 2020:

- Re-establish the Sister State partnership in France with Hauts-de-France Region
 - Update the original MOU signed in 1981 with Nord-Pas-de-Calais
- 40 year celebration of Maryland-Anhui, Chinese Sister State partnership
- First Lady Yumi Hogan Reception in recognition of 30 year Maryland-Gyeongsangnam-do, South Korean Sister State partnership (30 year anniversary is in 2021)
- Celebrations with Maryland-Leningrad Sister State for the 75th Anniversary of the ally victory during WWII. There are plans with the Leningrad region and the Russian Embassy for 2020.

Maryland Department of Commerce

Key accomplishments:

- Awarded more than 80 ExportMD grants to Maryland small and mid-sized companies to help promote their products and services in the global marketplace.
- Led 57 Maryland companies to 7 international trade shows in the UAE, Australia, Mexico, UK, Japan, Germany and Colombia.
- Organized, in concert with the National Governors Association, a Governor-led trade mission to Sydney, Adelaide, and Melbourne, Australia, focused around infrastructure, cyber-security, and life sciences.

List top 3 most important regions/countries dealt with in 2019

- UK, Japan, Australia (and Israel)

Major international goals, projects or events upcoming for 2020:

2020 trade shows:

- Arab Health 2020, January 2020
- UAE FIDAE Aero & Defense March/April 2020

- Chile ExpoSeguridad, Spring 2020
- Mexico SelectUSA Investment Summit, June 2020
- Washington, DC Info Security Europe, June 2020
- UK Singapore International Water Week, July 2020
- Singapore Africa Aerospace and Defense, September 2020
- South Africa MEDICA, Fall 2020, Germany

Maryland Department of Transportation

Key accomplishments:

- Continued progress on Governor Hogan’s Traffic Relief Plan (TRP). As part of the process, the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) continued work on the 495/I-270 to I-370 NEPA Study. Work also began on the NEPA Study for I-270 from I-370 to Frederick. Kicked off the TRP associated Opportunity MDOT Program to enhance community outreach and encourage DBE/MBE participation in the program including job training. Competitive Infrastructure P3’s often involve international private sector participants.
- In August, the MDOT’s Maryland Port Administration (MPA) held its 5th annual Finished Vehicle Logistics Conference. Both Domestic and International Automotive Manufacturers from around the world were in attendance. In addition to the auto manufacturers, also in attendance were shipping companies, railroads, trucking and related suppliers.
- Attended the 2nd Annual International Manufacturing Convention in Hefei, Anhui Province China from Sept. 19 -21, 2019 and made presentations on Maryland’s Connected and Automated Vehicle Initiative to 300 to 400 representatives from public and private organizations from around the world during the Intelligent Connected Vehicles Forum held at the Convention on Sept. 21, 2019.
- MDOT officials met with Anhui Port and Transport Officials on Sept. 20, 2019 to define ways that Anhui and Maryland could enhance our port and other relationships in the coming years. This was a planning focused follow-up visit to Anhui Maryland Day in Bethesda in May 2019 at the mutual request of Maryland and Anhui. We were also able to visit Chinese Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV) manufacturers during the visit.
- The MDOT Transportation Secretary attended and made a presentation at the 26th Intelligent Transport Systems World Congress in Singapore from Oct. 21-25, 2019.
- Sponsored World Trade Center Institute “Maryland State of the Ports” event held at the Baltimore World Trade Center on Nov. 13, 2019.
- MDOT participated in a Governor Hogan trade mission from Sept. 22 to 30, 2019 that included visits to Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne. The trip was an opportunity to, “exchange ideas and innovations to modernize our roads, bridges, transit and ports in order to meet the needs of the 21st century” and to forge partnerships to create jobs as stated by Governor Hogan.
- Several international-related MPA statistics regarding international trade: The Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore (POB) is ranked # 1 in the nation for automobiles, roll-on/roll-off equipment, and imported sugar; ranked #2 for exported coal. Commerce with the world by way of the Port of Baltimore continued to grow.

- In Nov. 2019, MDOT applied for a follow-up grant for \$24 million associated with the NEPA Study of the Baltimore-Washington Corridor for a potential Maglev commuter train that will be privately funded if it is ever built. Baltimore Washington Rapid Rail (BWRR) committed to providing 100% of the required matching funds if the grant is awarded to MDOT sometime in 2020. This will delay beyond the 3rd Quarter of 2020 completion of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) study due to the time it will take to complete the additional detailed analysis the funding will facilitate. BWRR is modelling the study using Japanese Maglev Technology.

Major international goals, projects or events upcoming for 2020:

- MDOT plans to participate, as required in an anticipated Governor's visit to Japan and potentially Anhui Province during 2020 to possibly finalize a new sister port relationship with Anhui Province. This is tied to a follow-up request of our Sept. 2019 visit to Anhui Province. Also MDOT will participate in any 2020 Events tied to the 40th Anniversary of Maryland-Anhui Sister State relationship.
- In 2020 MDOT will continue progress implementing Traffic Relief Plan (TRP) Public Private Partnership (P3) including gaining Board of Public Works approval of updated procurement process and issuing "draft" RFP. Competitive Infrastructure P3's often involve international private sector participants.
- In 2020 MDOT will begin discussions among relevant State Agencies for potentially hosting another International Green Ports Conference in Maryland in 2021 or 2022. The first U.S. Green Ports Conference was held in Baltimore at the Convention Center from May 15-18, 2018.
- In 2020 MDOT will continue to partner with BWRR on the Baltimore-Washington Corridor Maglev NEPA Study.

Maryland Higher Education Commission

Key accomplishments:

- Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) Secretary Dr. James D. Fielder and Commission Chair Anwer Hasan welcomed Pakistan Higher Education Chairman Dr. Tariq Banuri to Baltimore. The three met with other MHEC directors to discuss efforts to restructure higher education in Pakistan, using Maryland as a model.
- MHEC Secretary Dr. James D. Fielder was honored to join the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Celebration on Saturday, May 11 in Cecil County, along with Secretary of State Wobensmith. Representatives from the Republic of Indonesia Embassy in Washington D.C. attended, along with a representative from the Indonesia consulate in New York and several Cecil County Commissioners, all enjoying the day's celebration.
- Secretary Fielder presented Sister John Elizabeth Callaghan, the Principal of Mt. Aviation Academy, with a Higher Education Certificate of Excellence for hosting the celebration.

List top 3 most important regions/countries dealt with in 2019

- Pakistan and the Republic of Indonesia

Major international goals, projects or events upcoming for 2020:

- Secretary Fielder will continue to identify and develop new partnerships between colleges and businesses, locally, nationally, and internationally to support workforce development and improve workforce readiness.

Maryland State Department of Education

Key accomplishments:

- The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) welcomed delegations from Russia, Japan and South Africa. Topics presented included programs for English learners, STEM education, and early childhood education.
- In its third year, 19 local school systems are participating in the Maryland Seal of Biliteracy Program. In 2019, 2,330 Seals of Biliteracy were awarded to high school seniors in Amharic, Arabic, Armenian, Bengali, Chinese, Farsi, French, German, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, Tagalog, Ukrainian and Vietnamese.
- Memoranda of Understanding were signed with the Republic of China (Taiwan) and Italy. The agreements promote knowledge and appreciation of the cultures of China, Italy and Maryland, promote expanded language programs, provide professional growth opportunities for teachers, and encourage the hiring of teachers as well as virtual and face-to-face exchanges of teachers and students.

List top 3 most important regions/countries dealt with in 2019

- China, Italy, France

Major international goals, projects or events upcoming for 2020:

- The Seal of Biliteracy program is expanding to 20 local education systems. We anticipate that additional languages will be represented in 2020. MSDE will continue to collaborate with other state agencies, Maryland businesses, and higher education regarding the benefits of the Seal of Biliteracy.
- MSDE will expand its partnership with the National Security Agency (NSA).
 - NSA is supporting the first Maryland Polyglot Games in March 2020. Modeled after the “Language Wars,” NSA language analysts will serve as proctors for competitions between teams of students demonstrating their language skills at various proficiency levels. Winning teams will be awarded certificates from NSA and will be invited to visit the agency. In subsequent years, regional and state competitions will be added.
 - An application for a Fellow to collaborate exclusively with MSDE has been submitted.
 - The Language Education Advancement Program team and several language analysts attended the world language supervisors briefing to share resources and receive feedback for further outreach to schools.
 - The Division of Career and Technology Education is establishing an NSA internship for Maryland students.
- MSDE will continue to collaborate with partners such as World Artists Experiences to expand international education initiatives for Maryland teachers and students.

Maryland Department of Health

Key accomplishments:

- In conjunction with its partners, the Department worked to track international origins of opioid/fentanyl.
- Departmental representatives met with a South Korean delegation to discuss food safety.
- The Department successfully addressed the measles outbreak. (Likely origins: Eastern Europe, Philippines)

List top 3 most important regions/countries dealt with in 2019

- Asia (opioids/fentanyl, measles, food safety); Eastern Europe (measles).

Major international goals, projects or events upcoming for 2020:

- The Department will vigorously continue its fight against the opioid crises.

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Key accomplishments:

- In June 2019, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) conducted a trade mission to France to connect Maryland Thoroughbred and Standardbred breeders with their French counterparts. The goal was to promote equine trade, exchanges and tourism. The group also met with leaders of the Maryland and Hauts-de-France Sister State Committee to identify potential areas of collaboration. The Maryland delegation included breeders and horse industry officials. The group met with leaders from Le Trot, the French Trotters Association and visited a number of world-renowned stud farms such as Haras de Quesnay and Haras de Bonneval. The delegation also visited several racetracks and training centers. It is expected that a group from Hauts-de-France will visit Maryland in 2020 and part of the visit will involve developing educational equine exchanges.
- MDA hosted three buyers of alcoholic beverages from Europe in November 2019. The buyers from the Czech Republic, France and Sweden met with and toured eight breweries and distilleries. Preliminary surveys indicate that all three buyers were interested in following up with at least one of the Maryland companies. We have submitted a request to conduct a similar activity with buyers from different European countries.
- In 2019, MDA managed six trade shows in partnership with the Southern United States Trade Association and sponsored two inbound missions. One of the most important shows was Gulfood 2019 as companies reported anticipated sales of over \$9 million. This year, MDA assisted 32 companies to join the Southern U.S. Trade Association to take advantage of discounted booths at major international shows and to take part in both inbound and outbound missions.

List top 3 most important regions/countries dealt with in 2019

- The three most important regions for MDA in 2019 were the Middle East, Asia (China, Japan and Korea) and Europe.

Major international goals, projects or events upcoming for 2020:

- In 2020, MDA will continue to connect Maryland growers and processors to international buyers. MDA will again host a delegation of European alcohol buyers to meet with our state's craft breweries, wineries and distilleries. MDA will also participate with breeders and horse industry officials in the 2020 European Paint Horse Championship in Kreuth, Germany. We will focus on outreach to food and seafood companies to encourage them to take advantage of federal and state programs to promote exporting and international marketing.

Maryland Department of Environment

Key accomplishments:

- International Climate Resilience Seminar - Secretary Grumbles served as the keynote speaker at an international seminar in Baltimore, which included Dutch officials on March 29, 2019. The seminar focused on flood resilience in various environments: urban, riverine and coastal. The aim was to share experiences with the Dutch approach to flood management and climate resilience; to examine the flooding conditions in the Baltimore-Washington area; and to connect US and Dutch parties that are working on solutions.
- Carbon Pricing Forum –Secretary Grumbles served on a panel for the Carbon Pricing in the Americas: Stock-Take and Knowledge Exchange seminar on April 10, 2019. The panel included representatives from Canada and Chile and involved a discussion on regional carbon pricing cooperation. Secretary Grumbles presented Maryland's experience as a member and Chair of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).
- Brazilian Delegation – On May 16, 2019, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) hosted a delegation from Brazil at the request of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Internal Affairs Office. The discussion focused on the State's perspective on the Chesapeake Bay Partnership, total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) implementation and interjurisdictional water cleanups.
- The United Nations Climate Change Conference – During Dec. 2019, Secretary Grumbles represented Maryland at the COP 25 in Madrid, Spain where he shared information on Maryland's climate leadership, as well as coordinated with other states and countries to gain additional perspectives.

List top 3 most important regions/countries dealt with in 2019

- The Netherlands, Canada, and Brazil

Major international goals, projects or events upcoming for 2020:

- Climate Change – MDE will continue to share information on Maryland's climate leadership with other countries and organizations, including other state agencies such as Maryland Energy Administration, MDOT, MDA, and Commerce.
- International Delegations - MDE will continue to host various international delegations with a focus on the environment and public health.

Maryland Military Department

Key accomplishments:

- In 2019, the Maryland National Guard (MDNG – comprised of the Maryland Army (MDARNG) and Air (MDANG) National Guard) conducted 94 State Partnership Program (SPP) events, 50 with Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and 44 with Estonia.

Highlights of the MDNG SPP during 2019 include:

Tri-lateral Events:

- Members of the Armed Forces of BiH (AFBiH), Estonian Defense Force (EDF), and MDARNG also met together in Estonia 5-9 Aug. to compete in the annual Admiral Pitka Challenge. The event is a four day contest, during which participants must navigate self-sufficiently for 70 miles on foot while evading aggressors and completing various task challenges. The MDARNG manned two teams (one of which was trilateral) in a field of 29 teams from 14 different countries.
- Members of the AFBiH and the EDF participated in the MDNG Best Warrior Competition in Maryland in late Oct. at Fort A. P. Hill, Virginia.

Estonia:

- MDNG personnel participated in Locked Shields which occurred 8-12 April in Estonia. Locked Shields is conducted annually and is the world's largest and most advanced live-fire network defense cyber exercise.
- Major General Singh attended the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Command Senior Enlisted Leader appointment ceremony for Estonian Sergeant Major Siim Saliste in Mons, Belgium in late April.
- MDNG Soldiers and Airmen participated in Spring Storm 4-12 May in Estonia. Spring Storm is a NATO exercise that involved almost 10,000 troops from seven alliance nations and Finland, integrating land, air and sea power.
- Major General Singh visited Estonia 16-21 June to meet with that country's military and civic leaders as well as to visit embassy staff there.
- Members of the MDNG continued to engage with our Estonian partners on cyberspace operations by participating in numerous exercises and planning sessions.
- On 9 Nov., Major General Gowen hosted the Estonian ambassador and other dignitaries at the Dundalk Armory. On 19 Nov., Major General Gowen attended the Estonian embassy's celebration of the 101st anniversary of the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF). He will make his first official trip to Estonia as The Adjutant General in Feb. 2020.

Bosnia and Herzegovina:

- In early Jan., the incoming U.S. Ambassador, Mr. Eric Nelson, sought out Major General Singh to get her perspective on BiH affairs in the immediate aftermath of his appointment before departing for to take over the mission in Sarajevo.
- Major General Singh accompanied General Lengyel (Chief of National Guard Bureau and member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff) on his visit to BiH in late Jan. 2019.
- The MDNG hosted the Adriatic Five (A5), also known as the Adriatic Charter: Albania, Macedonia, Croatia, BiH, Montenegro, with Serbia and Kosovo as observers) Cyber Forum 23-27 April at the Army Research Lab in Adelphi, Maryland.
- Major General Singh visited BiH 22-27 June to meet with that country's military and civic leaders as well as to visit embassy staff there.

- A senior MDNG delegation participated in the Balkan Chiefs of Defense conference in Albania during the period 22-26 Sept.
- BiH held its own Best Warrior Competition, Modeled after the MDNG competition of the same name, 7-11 Oct. The competition inspires and further develops future AFBiH leaders, and the top officer, non-commissioned officer, and enlisted person become the selectees to represent AFBiH at Maryland's Best Warrior Competition.
- Major General Gowen met with General Milosavic (AFBiH Chief of the Joint Staff) in Washington DC on 1 Oct. He attended a BiH embassy function on 5 Dec. He will make his first official trip to BiH as The Adjutant General 26-30 Jan. 2020.

Major international goals, projects, or events upcoming for 2020:

Estonia-Maryland Partnership

- This relationship focuses on increasing the capacity of the EDF and EDL to accomplish their military requirements, increasing support to civil authorities, and meeting the U.S. European Command (EUCOM) objectives of ensuring ready forces and strategic access in support of EUCOM and NATO theater objectives. In the coming year, the MDNG will participate in two major exercises in Estonia – Saber Strike and Spring Storm. Our engagement priorities in Federal Fiscal Year 2020 are:
 1. Regional Partnering and Collaboration
 2. Special Operations Forces
 3. U.S. Defense Posture
 4. Air Operational Access
 5. Disaster Preparedness Capability
 6. Command, Control, Communications, and Computers (C4) Interoperability
 7. Combined Land Forces Interoperability, Deployability, and Standardization
 8. Cyber Security
 9. Defense Governance: Support to Defense Institutions
 10. Environmental Security
 11. Essential Services Capacity
 12. Intelligence Security Cooperation
 13. Military Medical Capabilities

Bosnia and Herzegovina-Maryland Partnership.

- This relationship focuses on the modernizing and professionalizing of the AFBiH to strengthen our partnership, achieve NATO Membership Action Plan (MAP) objectives, as well as improving and coordinating AFBiH support to civil authorities. Engagements promote BiH integration, AFBiH activation of NATO MAP, and development into NATO ally. In the coming year, the MDNG will participate in one major BiH exercise testing natural disaster preparedness. Our engagement priorities in Federal Fiscal Year 2020 are:
 1. Disaster Preparedness
 2. Military Medical and Evacuation
 3. Aviation Sustainment
 4. Regional Partnering events
 5. National Level Exercises
 6. Intelligence, C4, and Cyber

7. Partnering
8. Strategic Communications/Public Affairs

As we support our partners in both BiH and Estonia, we are also honing our own high-level skills by exercising the following Universal Joint Tasks:

1. OP 8.2 Conduct Military Exchanges (Operational level)
2. ST 5.1.4 Monitor Strategic Situation (Strategic Theater level)
3. ST 8.1.1 Enhance Political-Military (POLMIL) Relations (Strategic Theater level)
4. ST 8 Perform Military Engagement (Strategic Theater level)
5. ST 8.1 Coordinate Regional Relations (Strategic Theater level)
6. ST 8.2 Coordinate Multinational Operations (Strategic Theater level)

Maryland Department of Planning

Key accomplishments:

- Planning Secretary Rob McCord presented to the Subcabinet on Oct. 30, 2019, as well as the International Sister States Board on Oct. 22, 2019, regarding the 2020 US Census. The presentation included how census data is used for various business, public health, and emergency planning purposes. He detailed how the State Data Center in Planning has customized an online tool that provides information on the characteristics of low response score census tracts throughout the state that can be used by every jurisdiction in the state. He also gave an overview of efforts to make sure that we have a full and accurate count for Maryland in 2020.

Governor's Office of Community Initiatives

Key accomplishments:

- In continuance of the Governor's Office of Community Initiative's (GOCI) mission to establish and strengthen Maryland's international ties, we continued to work closely with World Artists Experiences and the Embassy of Egypt to the United States to present several lecturers from prominent Egyptian universities. This year lectures even included the revelation of a new dinosaur by Dr. Hesham Sallam and the geology department at Mansour University.
- Working along with our colleagues in the Governor's Coordinating Offices, GOCI again partnered with the U.S. Foreign Service to present an outline of our administrative functions in support of the Hogan Administration to an international group (representing several African, European, Asian and Middle Eastern nations) of young men and women. Culled from the many foreign nationals that work in U.S. Embassies, the fully engaged students received basic instruction on, and asked many questions about, increased inclusion and opportunity and how we continue to implement these ideals in active policy.
- The Governor's Ethnic Commissions continued to play a very strong role in furtherance of GOCI's mission. Asian Pacific American Commissioner Bob Zhang participated greatly to the success of the MDOT trade mission to Anhui Province, China, both facilitating visits and advising on Chinese protocols to ensure the mission stayed on the most successful course.
- The Governor's Commission on African Affairs made significant progress in integrating the support of Federal agencies and the diplomatic corps of several key African countries in support

of increased trade for Maryland business, and better reporting results for the upcoming Census 2020 initiative.

- Commissioner Felix Obi and the econ dev/business sub-committee conceived, planned and delivered the highly successful 3rd GOCI Maryland Business Forum, which focused on introducing “Prosper Africa” to Maryland’s African business community, and local government Economic Development Authorities. The forum was attended by several African diplomats, including Sierra Leone’s Ambassador to the US Sidique Abou-Bakaar Wai and the African Union Ambassador to the US Arikana Chihombori-Quao.
- Prosper Africa is an amalgamation of several trade specialists from over 15 federal agencies charged with advancing prosperity, security and stability on the African continent, by extending economic partnerships through trade and commercial ties with nations that share the U.S. commitment to self-reliance, and fostering increased opportunities for job creation. Trade and investment financing is largely being backed by the US International Development Finance Corporation (formerly OPIC) and a \$60 billion portfolio.
- Acting director Matthew Rees led the delegation from Prosper Africa, along with private business and government leaders from numerous federal, state and local sectors with interests in Africa.
- Led by Hispanic Affairs commissioners Walkiria Pool and Liliana Castillo, the Maryland Complete Count Committee is working to increase the number of participants among the state’s ethnic communities, which are chronically underreported. As part of this effort, African Commission Chair Ngozi Azubike and Commissioner Suna Nallo, initiated the first in a series of presentations on Census 2020. Held in conjunction with a town hall conducted at the University of Maryland campus for Sierra Leoneans in the diaspora of the Capital Region. The fully engaged audience asked several pertinent questions regarding the administration of the Census, and its’ purpose. GOCI, along with the commissioners, is looking forward to expanding on these presentations, with the hope of reducing the number of uncounted residents

Major international goals, projects or events upcoming for 2020:

- The goal of the ethnic commissions within the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives remains to establish and strengthen partnership/relationships with state and local entities with particular interest in international engagement.

Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs

Key accomplishments:

- The Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs produces a small business resource magazine in partnership with The Daily Record. It is published every Sept. and distributed to 4,100 subscribers. An additional 1,200 copies are disseminated by the office at outreach events around the state. The 2019 edition includes an article regarding international business, which features Signe Pringle, assistant secretary for business and industry sector development at the Maryland Department of Commerce. It identifies the resources available to Maryland's small, minority, women and veteran business owners who are interested in exploring international business markets.